Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A macrophage infecting parasite which is a strain of *Leishmania* and which is transformed by a plasmid containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF) ~~gene~~ and which parasite expresses GM-CSF.

2. (Cancelled)

2 ~~3~~. (Previously amended) The parasite of claim 1 wherein said strain of *Leishmania* is selected from the group consisting of *Leishmania donovani*, *Leishmania braziliensis*, *Leishmania tarentolae*, *Leishmania major*, *Leishmania mexicana*, *Leishmania tropica* and *Leishmania aethiopica*.

4. (Cancelled)

3 ~~5~~. (Currently amended) The parasite of claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid molecule encoding GM-CSF ~~gene~~ is of murine origin.

4 ~~6~~. (Currently amended) The parasite of claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid molecule encoding GM-CSF ~~gene~~ is of human origin.

5 ~~7~~. (Currently amended) The parasite of claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid molecule encoding GM-CSF ~~gene~~ is expressed using the α-tubulin intergenic sequences of *Leishmania enrietti*.

8. (Cancelled)

6 ~~9~~. (Currently amended) The parasite of claim 1 wherein at least one nucleic acid molecule ~~gene~~ of the parasite contributing to virulence thereof has been functionally disabled.

7 ~~10~~. (Currently amended) A macrophage infecting parasite which is a strain of *Leishmania* and which is transformed by a plasmid containing a nucleic acid molecule

encoding a granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF) ~~gene~~ and which parasite expresses GM-CSF and at least one additional cytokine.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

8 ~~21~~. (Previously added) A macrophage infecting parasite which is a strain of *Leishmania* selected from the group consisting of *Leishmania donovani* and *Leishmania major* and which has been transformed by a plasmid vector selected from the group consisting of pneo-mGM CSF and pneo-hGM CSF and which expresses a granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF).